

## Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 JUSE-00 DEAE-00 SNM-02

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R 091141Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4024

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, PFOR, SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: EXTRADITION

REF: A. STATE 100657; B. BANGKOK 4923

SUMMARY: WE PROPOSE THAT DEPARTMENT INITIATE A REQUEST FOR THE EXTRADITION OF HOI SEWAN AND SUKREE SUKREEPRIOM, BOTH OF WHOM ARE CURRENTLY UNDER ARREST IN THAILAND FOR NARCOTICS VIOLATIONS. THIS COULD SERVE AS A USEFUL TEST CASE TO DETERMINE THE RTG'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS EXTRADITION OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS FOR NARCOTICS OFFENSES. END SUMMARY.

1. THERE IS NO CERTAINTY THAT THE RTG WILL AGREE TO EXTRADITE THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS FOR NARCOTICS OFFENSES, AND WE DOUBT THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO GET A DEFINITE RULING AT HIGH LEVELS WITHOUT USING A TEST CASE. THE CURRENT MA SSU-TS'UNG CASE IS NOT AN ADEQUATE TEST CASE SINCE IT INVOLVES THREE THAI CITIZENS.

2. THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS THAT THE EXTRADITION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS MAY BE POSSIBLE. FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE MA SSU-TS'UNG EXTRADITION PROCESS, TNPD OFFICIALS SPECULATED THAT THE HANDLING OF THE REQUEST MIGHT BE SIMPLIFIED IF THE SUBJECTS WERE NOT THAI CITIZENS. INFORMAL MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY

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BEING CONDUCTED BETWEEN TNPD AND DEA REGARDING THE

EXPULSION OR EXTRADITION OF AT LEAST THREE THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS IN THAILAND WHO ARE ACCUSED OF NARCOTICS OFFENSES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. TNPD OFFICERS HAVE CONVEYED THE IMPRESSION THAT AN EXCELLENT POSSIBILITY EXISTS FOR THE SURRENDER OR EXPULSION OF THESE INDIVIDUALS. WE NOTE ALSO THAT THE RTG HAS BEEN COOPERATIVE ON THE PENDING EXTRADITION REQUEST FOR AN INDIAN NATIONAL ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTING TO DESTROY AN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT. ALTHOUGH OTHER ISSUES ARE INVOLVED IN THIS CASE, THE RTG HAS NOT CHALLENGED THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE USG IS LEGALLY ENTITLED TO SEEK THE EXTRADITION OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS.

3. DEA REGION 16 HAS ALREADY PROPOSED TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT (REF B) THAT IT REQUEST THE EXTRADITION OF HOI SEWAN (A MALAYSIAN CITIZEN) AND SUKREE SUKREEPRIOM (A SINO-THAI WITH THAI CITIZENSHIP) WHO WERE ARRESTED IN BANGKOK MARCH 22 ON NARCOTICS CHARGES. HOI'S CASE WOULD SERVE AS A USEFUL TEST OF THE RTG'S WILLINGNESS TO EXTRADITE THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS. THE REQUEST FOR SUKREE WOULD FALL INTO THE SAME CATEGORY AS THE MA SSU-TS'UNG CASE, BUT PROCEEDINGS SHOULD BE SOMEWHAT FASTER NOW THAT THE RTG HAS SOME EXPERIENCE WITH REQUESTS OF THIS NATURE. WE PROPOSE THAT JUSTICE AND STATE PROCEED WITH THE DOCUMENTATION AND ISSUE A REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH PROCEEDINGS INVOLVE A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND EXPENSE, BUT THE EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO IMPRESS UPON THE RTG AND OTHER CONCERNED SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE USG EFFORT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXTRADITION, NARCOTICS, DRUG CONTROL, ARRESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BANGKO08480  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750163-0467  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 94  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION L  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 100657, 75 BANGKOK 4923  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <24 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EXTRADITION  
**TAGS:** CPRS, PFOR, SNAR, TH, (HOI SEWAN), (SUKREE SUKREEPRIOM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006